

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Adachi et al (US 2006/0062482).

Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 are amended to further define the embodiments of the apparatus and method claimed in these claims. Support for these amendments is present in at least pages 17-25 of the specification, the corresponding figures, and original claim 7. Claims 3-6 are amended to remain consistent with claim 1.

According to the present invention, a driver can easily obtain a status of the guidance route and a difference between a shape of the route in the simplified map and a shape of the actual route, and the driver is notified for avoidance of confusion. In generating the simplified map, the shape-simplified road map data generating unit corrects a position of an end of the link or another line connected to an end so that the link straightly-advances or orthogonally intersects another line to simplify a road shape of the guidance route. Next, guidance notice information is generated for a line section of the route having a deviation in shape from the simplified map greater than a predetermined value. The guidance notice information indicates that there is a difference between the simplified route and the actual route in road shape and is generated on the basis of the deviation in shape and a trend of increase and decrease in deviation.

Applicant submits that Adachi does not teach or suggest the shape-simplified road map data generating unit of amended claim 1, which is “configured to generate ... shape-simplified road map data which includes at least the guiding route and a road intersecting the recommended route, wherein the shape-simplified road map data generating unit linearizes the guiding route including a link and corrects a position of an end of the link or another line connected to an end so that the link straightly-advances or orthogonally intersects another line to simplify a road shape of the guiding route.”

Adachi discloses that a size of shape data of a route is reduced by linear-approximating the route and an example in which a route is expressed with line sections having a predetermined length and an inclination between adjoining line sections to express a shape of a route. Adachi discloses an example in which the inclination of a line section is expressed in an absolute angle on a polar display, a relative angle from just before line section, or a difference in relative angle. In Adachi, a branch line that intersects the route is also line-approximated to be expressed with line sections and expressed with line sections having approximated length.

The Office Action cites paragraphs [0059]-[0067], [0093]-[0095], [0114] and [0115] of Adachi as disclosing the simplified road map data generating means of claim 1 prior to the present amendments. None of the cited portions of the reference, however, teaches or suggests that “the shape-simplified road map data generating unit linearizes the guiding route including a link and corrects a

position of an end of the link or another line connected to an end so that the link straightly-advances or orthogonally intersects another line to simplify a road shape of the guiding route,” as required by amended claim 1. In other words, Adachi fails to disclose the simplified route shape by linearization and orthogonalizing.

Additionally, Applicant submits that Adachi does not teach or suggest “a guidance notice information generating unit configured to generate, on the basis of the difference at the notice part between the map data and the shape-simplified road map data, guidance notice information to be supplied to the navigation terminal when the moving object reaches the notice part in the route guidance, wherein the guidance notice information generating unit generates the guidance notice information for each of coordinate values included in the notice part and a plurality of coordinate values following the coordinates out of the coordinate values forming the coordinate value string of the guiding route in the road map data on the basis of increase and decrease trends in an angle made between a first line section having a start point or an end point at the coordinate values and a second line section of the guiding route in the shape-simplified road map data, corresponding to the first line section,” as claimed in amended claim 1.

The Office Action cites certain portions of Adachi as disclosing a guidance notice generating means (prior to amendment), but the cited portions do not disclose all of the features of the amended claim. In particular, Adachi fails to

disclose the notice information of the part which is different from the simplified route shape by linearization and orthogonalizing from the actual route shape.

As described in amended claim 1, the guidance notice information is generated based on the difference at the notice part between the map data and the shape-simplified road map data, wherein the shape-simplified road map data generating unit linearizes the guiding route including a link and corrects a position of an end of the link or another line connected to an end so that the link straightly-advances or orthogonally intersects another line to simplify a road shape of the guiding route. Adachi, however, does not disclose guidance notice information that is generated based on this particular feature.

Therefore, amended claim 1 is patentable over the prior art for the foregoing reasons.

Amended claims 2, 8 and 9 are patentable for reasons analogous to those for claim 1.

Claims 3-6 are patentable due to their dependence from claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323, Docket No. 029118.58161US.

Respectfully submitted,

February 15, 2011

/Cameron W. Beddard/
Stephen W. Palan
Registration No. 43,420
Cameron W. Beddard
Registration No. 46,545

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
SWP:CWB:err
14502682